

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-1267

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Trap Range Improvements.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

3. Project Title: Plains Trap Club (PTC)

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Thomas Kunzer
410 Hwy 200 W.
Plains, MT 59859
(406) 826-5589

Resolution Date: May 5, 2005

5. Cooperating Agencies and/or Supporting Groups: Hunter Education, Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, Bowhunter Safety Education, Montana Highway Patrol, Plains City Police Department, Sanders County Sheriff's Department, and the Army Reserve. The Plains Trap Club is an affiliate of the National Rifle Association and the American Trap Association.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Plains Trap Club and formerly the Eastern Sanders County Sportsman Club, Inc. is located in Sanders County Montana, 4 miles northwest of Plains, MT behind the golf course on Hwy 200. Located on the N½SW¼ Section 9, Township 20 N. Range 26 W.

7. Project Size: Less than one acre on ~10 acres.

8. Map:

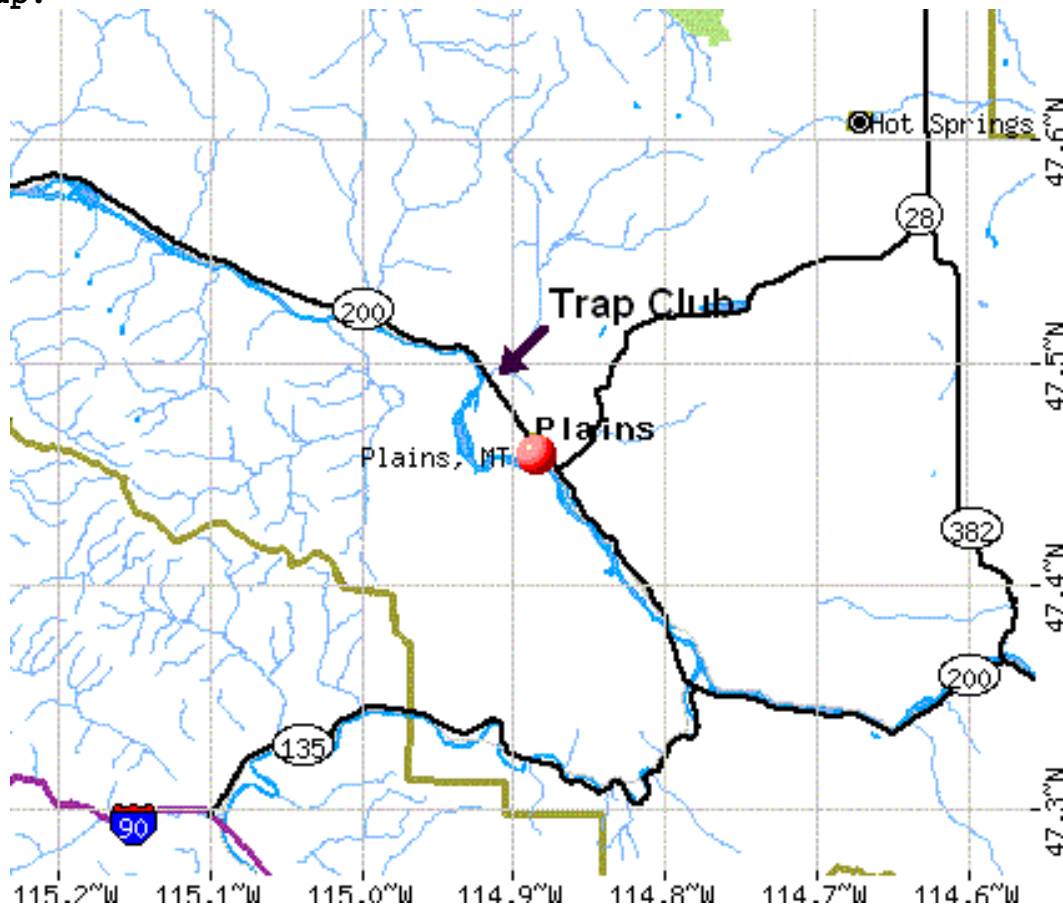


Figure 1 - Plains Trap Club, Plains, Montana

9. Description of Project:

Project is 100% designed and no permits were required. The area of current development is less than one acre. Utility poles are already in place.

Trap Machines, Voice Calls, Range Lighting, and RV Hook-ups/parking area:

1. Two new trap machines.
2. Four Canterbury Voice Calls.
3. Three sets of flood lights plus wiring and disconnects.
4. Eight pedestals & wiring
5. Four Frost-free Hydrant Valves

All projects should be completed by Oct. 2005.

10. Listing of any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
	None	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$13,636.50
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		X
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		X
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is leased from the City of Plains on a 30 year lease signed in 2002. Range has been in operation for some time.

7. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. With range improvements out of town shooters at Sanctioned shoots will be able to stay on sight. New machines and lighting will permit expanded “shoots,” educational field classes and increased recreational opportunities.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (construction of the ranges), such as increased recreational opportunities, firearms and hunter safety training, law enforcement training, and sanctioned competitive shoots within the community. The no action alternative would improve the trap range with lighting, voice calls & new trap machines, nor would there be RV “hook-ups” or parking for overnight guest shooters, but continue on with present activities. Consequently there will be no night shooting, provisions to accommodate out-of-town guest shooters, or to allow expanded range times/use. Land use would remain the same. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, using safely designated, designed and supervised ranges, such as the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:
Tom Kunzer, Plains Trap Club

Narrative Evaluation and Comment:

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The positive support of all local law enforcement agencies, Hunter Education program and other youth groups with the potential increased shooting opportunities and limiting of unauthorized and unsafe shooting activities all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the construction of the relocated range and range

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

improvements for the Plains Trap Club.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 28, 2005

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: Adjacent neighbor has been contacted and range plans discussed.

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- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.